WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.    A method for viewing at least one of a plurality of documents in a non-directed arrangement in a computer system that includes a user input device coupled to a processor, a display and a memory, said method comprising the steps:

    fetching into memory documents associated by at least one of a plurality of links to a first current document, forming a first plurality of pre-fetched documents;

    displaying said first current document in a first display area on said display;

    displaying a representation of content of at least one of said plurality of pre-fetched documents in a second display area on the display in response to a first signal from the user input device;

    selecting a second current document from said plurality of pre-fetched documents in response to a second signal from the user input device;

    displaying said second current document in said first display area of the display;

    displaying a representation of content of said first current document in a third area on the display;

    fetching into memory documents associated by at least one of a plurality of links to said second current document, forming a second plurality of pre-fetched documents;

    displaying a representation of content of at least one of said second plurality of pre-fetched documents in said second display area on the display in response to a third signal from the user input device; and

    repeatedly performing the above as the user browses documents in said plurality of documents.

2.    The method of claim 1 wherein said representation of content is a thumb nail image of the document.

3.    The method of claim 2 wherein said thumb nail image further includes highlighting of concepts of interest to the user contained within the document.

4.    The method of claim 1 wherein said plurality of documents in a non-directed arrangement comprises pages of the World Wide Web.

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| 1 | 5. The method of claim 1 wherein said plurality of documents |
| 2 | includes Hyper Text Markup Language (HTML) documents. |

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| 1 | 6. The method of claim 1 wherein said plurality of documents |
| 2 | includes documents produced by a word processing program. |

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| 1 | 7. The method of claim 1 wherein said plurality of links comprises |
| 2 | at least one Uniform Resource Locator (URL). |

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| 1 | 8. A method for viewing at least one of a plurality of documents in |
| 2 | a non-directed arrangement in a computer system that includes a user input device |
| 3 | coupled to a processor, a display and a memory, said method comprising: |
| 4 | fetching into memory documents associated by at least one of a plurality |
| 5 | of links to a first current document, forming a first plurality of pre-fetched documents; |
| 6 | displaying said first current document in a first display area on said |
| 7 | display; |
| 8 | displaying a representation of content of at least one of said plurality of |
| 9 | pre-fetched documents in a second display area on the display in response to a first |
| 10 | signal from the user input device; |
| 11 | selecting a second current document from said plurality of pre-fetched |
| 12 | documents in response to a second signal from the user input device; |
| 13 | displaying said second current document in said first display area of the |
| 14 | display; |
| 15 | fetching into memory documents associated by at least one of a plurality |
| 16 | of links to said second current document, forming a second plurality of pre-fetched |
| 17 | documents; |
| 18 | displaying a representation of content of at least one of said second |
| 19 | plurality of pre-fetched documents in said second display area on the display in |
| 20 | response to a third signal from the user input device; and |
| 21 | repeatedly performing the above as the user browses documents in said |
| 22 | plurality of documents in a non-directed arrangement. |

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| 1 | 9. A computer program product for viewing at least one of a |
| 2 | plurality of documents in a non-directed arrangement in a computer system that |

3     includes a user input device coupled to a processor, a display and a memory, said

4     computer program product comprising:

5            code for fetching into memory documents associated by at least one of a

6     plurality of links to a first current document, forming a first plurality of pre-fetched

7     documents;

8            code for displaying said first current document in a first display area on

9     said display;

10            code for displaying a representation of content of at least one of said

11     plurality of pre-fetched documents in a second display area on the display in response

12     to a first signal from the user input device;

13            code for selecting a second current document from said plurality of pre-

14     fetched documents in response to a second signal from the user input device;

15            code for displaying said second current document in said first display

16     area of the display;

17            code for displaying a representation of content of said first current

18     document in a third area on the display;

19            code for fetching into memory documents associated by at least one of a

20     plurality of links to said second current document, forming a second plurality of pre-

21     fetched documents;

22            code for displaying a representation of content of at least one of said

23     second plurality of pre-fetched documents in said second display area on the display in

24     response to a third signal from the user input device;

25            code for repeatedly invoking the above codes as the user browses

26     documents in said plurality of documents in a non-directed arrangement; and

27            a computer readable storage medium for holding said codes.

1           10.     The computer program product of claim 9 wherein said

2     representation of content is a thumb nail image of the document.

1           11.     The computer program product of claim 9 wherein said thumb

2     nail image further includes highlighting of concepts of interest to the user contained

3     within the document.

1           12.     The computer program product of claim 9 wherein said plurality

2     of documents in a non-directed arrangement comprises pages of the World Wide Web.

1          13.    The computer program product of claim 9 wherein said plurality

2  of documents includes Hyper Text Markup Language (HTML) documents.

1          14.    The computer program product of claim 9 wherein said plurality

2  of documents includes documents produced by a word processing program.

1          15.    The computer program product of claim 9 wherein said plurality

2  of links comprises at least one Uniform Resource Locator (URL).

1          16.    A computer program product for viewing at least one of a

2  plurality of documents in a non-directed arrangement in a computer system that

3  includes a user input device coupled to a processor, a display and a memory, said

4  computer program product comprising:

5          code for fetching into memory documents associated by at least one of a

6  plurality of links to a first current document, forming a first plurality of pre-fetched

7  documents;

8          code for displaying said first current document in a first display area on

9  said display;

10          code for displaying a representation of content of at least one of said

11  plurality of pre-fetched documents in a second display area on the display in response

12  to a first signal from the user input device;

13          code for selecting a second current document from said plurality of pre-

14  fetched documents in response to a second signal from the user input device;

15          code for displaying said second current document in said first display

16  area of the display;

17          code for fetching into memory documents associated by at least one of a

18  plurality of links to said second current document, forming a second plurality of pre-

19  fetched documents;

20          code for displaying a representation of content of at least one of said

21  second plurality of pre-fetched documents in said second display area on the display in

22  response to a third signal from the user input device;

23          code for repeatedly invoking the above codes as the user browses

24  documents in said plurality of documents in a non-directed arrangement; and

25          a computer readable storage medium for holding said codes.

1                 17.      An apparatus for viewing at least one of a plurality of documents

2    in a non-directed arrangement comprising:

3                 a memory,

4                 a user input device;

5                 a display; and

6                 a processor operatively disposed to:

7                 fetch into memory documents associated by a plurality of links to a first

8    current document, to form a first plurality of pre-fetched documents;

9                 display said first current document in a first display area on said display;

10                display a representation of content of at least one of said plurality of pre-

11    fetched documents in a second display area on the display in response to a first signal

12    from the user input device;

13                select a second current document from said plurality of pre-fetched

14    documents in response to a second signal from the user input device;

15                display said second current document in said first display area of the

16    display;

17                display a representation of content of said first current document in a

18    third area on the display;

19                fetch into memory documents associated by at least one of a plurality of

20    links to said second current document, forming a second plurality of pre-fetched

21    documents;

22                display a representation of content of at least one of said second plurality

23    of pre-fetched documents in said second display area on the display in response to a

24    third signal from the user input device; and

25                repeatedly perform the above as the user browses documents in said

26    plurality of documents in a non-directed arrangement.

1                 18.      The apparatus of claim 17 wherein said representation of content

2    is a thumb nail image of the document.

1                 19.      The apparatus of claim 18 wherein said thumb nail image further

2    includes highlighting of concepts of interest to the user contained within the document.

1                20.     The apparatus of claim 17 wherein said plurality of documents in

2  a non-directed arrangement comprises pages of the World Wide Web.

1                21.     The apparatus of claim 17 wherein said plurality of documents

2  includes Hyper Text Markup Language (HTML) documents.

1                22.     The apparatus of claim 17 wherein said plurality of documents

2  includes documents produced by a word processing program.

1                23.     The apparatus of claim 17 wherein said plurality of links

2  comprises at least one Uniform Resource Locator (URL).

1                24.     An apparatus for viewing at least one of a plurality of documents

2  in a non-directed arrangement comprising:

3              a memory,

4              a user input device;

5              a display; and

6              a processor operatively disposed to:

7              fetch into memory documents associated by at least one of a plurality of

8  links to a first current document, to form a first plurality of pre-fetched documents;

9              display said first current document in a first display area on said display;

10             display a representation of content of at least one of said plurality of pre-

11  fetched documents in a second display area on the display in response to a first signal

12  from the user input device;

13             select a second current document from said plurality of pre-fetched

14  documents in response to a second signal from the user input device;

15             display said second current document in said first display area of the

16  display;

17             fetch into memory documents associated by at least one of a plurality of

18  links to said second current document, forming a second plurality of pre-fetched

19  documents;

20             display a representation of content of at least one of said second plurality

21  of pre-fetched documents in said second display area on the display in response to a

22  third signal from the user input device; and

23          repeatedly perform the above as the user browses documents in said
24     plurality of documents in a non-directed arrangement.